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September 2, 1997

Mr. David Waddell
Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37201

Re: *Universal Service Generic Contested Case*

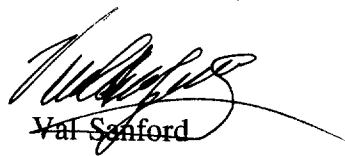
Docket No. 97-00888

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Enclosed for filing are the original and thirteen copies of Reply Comments of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. in response to the Hearing Officer's Notice of Proposed Schedule and Request for Comments.

Copies are being served on counsel for known parties and also to other interested parties.

Yours very truly,


Val Sanford

VS/ghc
Enclosure

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE , TENNESSEE**

In re: UNIVERSAL SERVICE GENERIC CONTESTED CASE

Docket No: 97-00888

SEP 2 8 10 18
SECRETARY

**REPLY COMMENTS OF AT&T COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL STATES, INC.**

AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. (here "AT&T") has reviewed the various comments filed in response to the Hearing Officer's Notice of Proposed Schedule and Request for Comments. AT&T observes that there are some areas of substantial agreement, e.g., that the cost studies which the TRA has agreed to undertake must be completed prior to February 6, 1998, and for that reason the schedule proposed by the staff should be revised. AT&T also observes that there are various areas of substantial disagreement. However, AT&T believes that no useful purpose would be served at this time by filing further voluminous comments replying to each comment made by each of the other parties.

Instead of further comments, AT&T suggests that the focus at this time should be; first, on seeking a consensus as to what issues the TRA needs to address at the outset of this proceeding, including issues that must be addressed in time for a decision by February 6, 1998; second, on a schedule which will allow for adequate opportunity to address those issues; third, on what issues may be addressed after February 6, 1998; and, fourth, on a tentative schedule for addressing those issues. Discussions among the parties may facilitate at least the narrowing of the decisions which need to be made.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and exact copy of the foregoing Reply Comments of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. has been served on counsel of record and other interested parties via First Class Mail postage prepaid, this **2nd** day of **September, 1997**.



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